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**ANNUAL  
REPORTS**

of

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Sanitary Inspector**

for the

**YEAR 1951**



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Luton Rural District Council

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ANNUAL  
REPORTS

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Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR 1951

# To the Luton Rural District Council.

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1951.

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The Chairman & Councillors of the  
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Luton Rural District for the year 1951.

The population shows a further increase during the year but this is associated with a further fall in the birth rate to 15.3. Infant mortality was extremely low, only three deaths of Infants under one year of age being notified.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk to the Council and the Sanitary Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Luton.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

1. Vital Statistics.

Area of district, 48,590 acres.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	19,460
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	...	...	...	5,958
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1951	...	...	...	£87,055
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£338
Number of new houses erected:				
(a) Council	...	...	...	85
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	...	12

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1951 as furnished by the Registrar-General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...			

Total	M	F
304	145	159
284	135	149
20	10	10
Crude Rate	15.6	
Adjusted Rate	15.3	

Still Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...			

Total	M	F
5	3	2
1	1	—
	19.4	

Deaths :

Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...			
------------------------------------	-----	--	--	--

Total	M	F
203	106	97
Crude Rate	10.4	
Adjusted Rate	10.2	

There were no maternal deaths in 1951.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	...	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	10
Legitimate	...	3	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate live births	...	...	...	10
Illegitimate	...	—	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

NOTE:—Adjusted birth and death rates are obtained by multiplying the 'crude' rate by the area comparability factor supplied from the General Register Office. This factor for both births and deaths in the Luton Rural District is 0.98.

## 2. Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for the last 7 years are as follows:—

1945	...	...	17,250
1946	...	...	17,630
1947	...	...	18,110
1948	...	...	18,600
1949	...	...	18,970
1950	...	...	19,290
1951	...	...	19,460

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows:—

1945	...	...	6.8
1946	...	...	9.1
1947	...	...	8.9
1948	...	...	6.9
1949	...	...	8.1
1950	...	...	5.9
1951	...	...	5.1

## 3 & 4. Birth and Death Rates.

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England & Wales	Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate for England & Wales
1945	17,250	293	16.9	16.1	174	10.1	11.4
1946	17,630	340	19.3	19.1	178	10.2	11.5
1947	18,110	364	20.1	20.5	202	11.2	12.0
1948	18,600	339	18.2	17.9	211	11.3	10.8
1949	18,970	333	17.6	16.7	180	9.5	11.7
1950	19,290	324	16.8	15.8	212	10.9	11.6
1951	19,460	304	15.3	15.5	203	10.2	12.5

# BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1951.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).  
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

						LUTON RURAL DISTRICT	ENGLAND AND WALES	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Births :						Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Live	...	...	...	...	...	15.3	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still	...	...	...	...	...	0.26	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
Deaths :						Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	10.2	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.15	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.21	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.52	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
						Rates per 1,000 live births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	9.8	29.6†	33.9	27.6	26.4
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	—	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
Notifications :						Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.67	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2.47	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	4.94	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.31	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
(a) Notifications :						Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90
(b) Maternal Mortality :										
Abortion with sepsis (651)	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.09	Not available		
Other abortion (650, 652)	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.05			
Complication of pregnancy and delivery	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.37			
Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.10			
Other complications of the puerperium	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.18			
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.79			

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths or notifications  
† Per 1,000 related births.

6. Infant Mortality.

The following table shows deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

			Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
			0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ac. Bronchitis	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Accidental ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	...	...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LUTON DURING THE YEAR 1951

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	6	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	25	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	9	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
TOTALS							106	97



# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941-1951

Year	LIVE BIRTHS				STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births	
												Sepsis	Other	Total		
1941	19,940	330	16.5	7	20.8	222	11.1	7	7	14	42	—	—	—	—	
1942	18,190	332	17.8	9	27.1	202	11.1	8	7	15	46	—	1	1	3.0	
1943	17,480	319	18.2	12	36.3	192	10.9	7	5	12	38	—	—	—	—	
1944	17,590	353	20.1	10	27.5	204	11.6	9	8	17	48	—	1	1	2.8	
1945	17,250	293	16.9	8	26.6	174	10.1	1	4	5	17	—	—	—	—	
1946	17,630	340	19.3	7	20.2	178	10.2	4	3	7	21	—	1	1	2.9	
1947	18,110	364	20.1	10	26.7	202	11.2	6	4	10	27	—	1	1	2.7	
1948	18,600	339	18.2	10	28.7	211	11.3	8	6	14	41	—	—	—	—	
1949	18,970	333	17.6	8	23.5	180	9.5	6	2	8	24	1	—	1	2.9	
1950	19,290	324	16.5	10	29.9	212	10.7	12	5	17	52	—	—	—	—	
1951	19,460	304	15.3	6	19.4	203	10.2	2	1	3	10	—	—	—	—	

## NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1-	3-	5-	10-	25-	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	1	5	7	.....	..	13
Whooping Cough... ..	4	12	13	17	2	.	48
Ac. poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ac. poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles (excluding rubella) ... ..	2	18	29	40	6	1	96
Diphtheria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ac. pneumonia ... ..	.....	1	.....	1	1	3	6
Dysentery ... ..	.....	2	1	1	.....	4	8
Smallpox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ac. encephalitis (Infective) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ac. encephalitis (Post-infectious) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric or typhoid fevers ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paratyphoid fevers ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal infection ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food poisoning ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal pyrexia... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	4
TOTALS ... ..	6	34	49	67	10	9	175

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 1 year	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1 year	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 years	1	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
10 ..	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
15 ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20 ..	2	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
25 ..	2	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
35 ..	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
45 ..	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
55 ..	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
65 and upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS	16	10	5	5	2	1	.....	.....

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1951

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## 1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.

52 samples were taken from the various main supplies within the district and of these 10 proved to be unsatisfactory, presumptive coli having been isolated during Bacteriological examination. Five of these samples were found to be due to pollution of one of the smaller bore wells in use in the district, the situation being rapidly brought under control by increasing the dosage from the chlorinating plant. The source of pollution which accounted for one of the remaining unsatisfactory results was traced to a defective service pipe and this was promptly rectified by the owner of the property. The remaining four unsatisfactory samples were taken from public standpipes and as subsequent samples from these points proved to be satisfactory, the importance of providing every house with a separate main water supply cannot be too strongly emphasised.

### Private Water Supplies.

10 unsatisfactory results were obtained from private installations, in each case a satisfactory position was eventually obtained.

The village of Chalton is supplied entirely from privately owned shallow wells, many of which are polluted. The provision of a safe supply here can only be effected by an extension of the existing main supply from the adjoining village of Toddington. By the end of this year estimates and plans had been prepared for this extension but the implementation of these plans is dependent entirely upon a Ministry grant and the general supply position of pipes, fittings, etc.

### Water Main Extensions.

These have been carried out at Kensworth Gorse, Pepperstock, Aley Green, Woodside, which also supplies property in the Hemel Hempstead Rural District, and Heath and Reach where a new water tower was erected. With the provision of mains supplies, no great difficulty was experienced in persuading private owners to provide a supply of mains water to dwelling houses in those areas.

## 1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As was reported in my Annual Report for 1950, the sewage disposal works in several villages were quite inadequate to deal with the ever increasing quantities of drainage discharged into the sewers. During the year a comprehensive survey of all existing schemes was carried out and proposals to improve existing and to provide new systems where none at present exist were submitted to the Minister. Towards the end of the year Ministry approval was granted for the provision of new sewerage schemes in the villages of Caddington, Tebworth and Heath and Reach for the extension and improvement of the existing scheme at Barton. The new schemes at Caddington and Tebworth being rated as the highest priority, the works to be commenced during 1952.

The ditches throughout the district have been cleansed from time to time, but however frequently this is done, a nuisance is certain to be created, with

the eventual pollution of rivers and watercourses. The use of ditches for the disposal of sewage is a bad expedient both from the view point of Economics and the Public Health, the only satisfactory solution being the provision of small sewerage systems taking the drainage from single or small groups of villages.

### **Cesspool Emptying.**

During the year 4,286 cesspools were emptied comprising 8,341 loads indicating an average capacity of almost two loads per cesspool. The number of cesspools emptied showed an increase of 18 over the previous year and in order to maintain a reasonably efficient service overtime working on Saturday morning was continued throughout the year.

In view of the ever increasing operating and labour costs of maintaining a Cesspool Emptying Service, coupled with the difficulty of securing suitable disposal sites for cesspool contents, the provision of sewerage schemes is a matter of sound economics as well as good sanitary administration.

There are four cesspool emptying vehicles in regular use and one held in reserve.

### **Disposal of Cesspool Emptier Contents.**

During the past year the position outlined in my report for 1950 became even more acute especially in the South-Western part of the district where, due to the lack of suitable sewerage schemes within a reasonable distance of the villages concerned, the cost of disposal as against actual emptying lost all reasonable proportion.

#### **1. (iii) FONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.**

Apart from those ditches, etc., receiving sewage, which have been included in the report on drainage and sewerage, control is exercised by the Highway Authority or the River Conservancy Boards.

#### **2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

The position here is as ascertained in 1950, control being exercised by the rivers Lea and Great Ouse Catchment Boards.

#### **3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

The conversion of privy middens and pail closets to W.C.'s was almost completed in the parish of Toddington by the end of the year and progress was made in the parish of Eaton Bray. The pace at which conversions can be carried out in the latter parish is however, limited by ability of the sewage disposal plant to deal with the additional flow of effluent. Very little progress is to be anticipated in other parishes until modern sewerage systems can be installed.

#### **3. (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

##### **House Refuse Collection.**

Despite an increase of over 100 new properties in the district and an increasing difficulty early in the year of recruiting staff, the twice monthly collection of all household refuse was maintained. During the year the Council obtained permission to pay all personnel employed in the Cleansing Services

on " Town Rates," the resultant increase was found to be an aid to recruiting staff in this district where the majority of the manual staff live in the adjoining towns of Luton or Dunstable.

In the parishes of Houghton Regis, Sundon Park and Streatley there are several unadopted roads which have unmetalled surfaces and which during the Winter months become almost impassable to vehicles. It has become necessary to warn the owners of properties fronting on to these roads, that unless the surfaces are maintained in a reasonable condition the removal of refuse cannot be undertaken as frequently as has been the custom in previous years in view of the additional time taken to collect from these properties and the increased danger of damage to vehicles resulting in costly repair bills and long delays in getting " the vehicles back on to the road."

Three 11 cub.yd. side-loading refuse vehicles are employed.

**Refuse Disposal.**

During the year the Refuse Tip at Lords Hill, Houghton Regis, was closed and a new tip was started at Park Road, Toddington. Due to the limited capacity of the tip at Gatehouse Farm, Caddington, refuse from the South East of the District was carried into Luton for disposal on the Luton Borough Tip. During the latter part of the year an agreement was reached with Dunstable Borough Council to enable refuse from the parishes of Kensworth, Eaton Bray, Totternhoe, Whipsnade and Studham, to be taken to the Borough Tip on the boundary between the Rural District and the Borough.

**Salvage.**

The demands for waste materials increased during the year and the Council approved the payment of an incentive bonus, with the result that increasing quantities of all types of waste were forthcoming. However, with the increase in demand, there was an increase in the activities of private dealers with the result that in many instances only waste with a low market value was left for collection by the Local Authority.

The following is a summary of income received from the sale of waste during the year:—

Waste Paper	...	...	£650	6	6
Textiles	...	...	16	17	6
Scrap Metals	...	...	26	10	0
			<hr/>		
			£693	14	0
			<hr/>		

an increase of £511 4s. 7d. on the year 1950.

**Trade Refuse.**

During the year few additional applications for this type of collection were received and these were carried out at the usual charges of 10/6d. per bin per annum for a twice monthly collection.



### 3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year.

#### GENERAL SANITATION.

Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	240
Ditches	...	...	...	20
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	...	...	...	96
Water Supply	...	...	...	92
Water Samples	...	...	...	93
Miscellaneous and re-inspections	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Wells	...	...	...	21

#### NUISANCES.

Premises (defects)	...	...	...	182
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	12
Disinfestation (Bugs, Fleas)	...	...	...	10
„ (Other Insects)	...	...	...	61
Animals	...	...	...	14
Smoke and Dust	...	...	...	10
Rodents	...	...	...	60
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and re-inspections	...	...	...	343
Sewer Survey (Rats)	...	...	...	96
Wasp Nests	...	...	...	2

#### SPECIAL PREMISES.

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	15
Knackers Yards and Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	3
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	6
Petroleum	...	...	...	34
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	190
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	5

#### FOOD.

General Stores	...	...	...	51
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	10
Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	59
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	55
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	29
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	22

#### MILK AND ICE CREAM.

Dairies	...	...	...	31
Milk Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	3
Milk Samples	...	...	...	90
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...	9
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	34
Ice Cream Retail Vehicles	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	5

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Investigations	...	...	...	...	51
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	34
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	Nil
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4
Virological Survey	...	...	...	...	98

## CLEANSING SERVICES ... .. 464

### HOUSING.

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	103
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	26
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	222
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	39

### MISCELLANEOUS.

National Assistance Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
Civil Defence and Emergency Meals Service					42

### Abatement of Nuisances.

102 Nuisances were abated during the year. Only in six instances was it found necessary to take Statutory Action and in all cases the Nuisance was remedied without recourse to action in Court. However, the increasing costs of labour and materials are becoming a great deterrent even to conscientious owners whose property is controlled by the Rent Restriction Acts and which due to old age is becoming difficult to maintain in a reasonably fit condition.

### Contravention of Byelaws for the Good Government of the District.

During the year a considerable number of man-hours have been spent by the Cleansing Services in removing deposits of rubbish from country lanes in the District. Where it was possible to identify individuals or firms, enquiries were made to trace the persons responsible for this unwarranted marring of the countryside. One offender was fined £1 10s. 0d. and ordered to remove the refuse.

A considerable Nuisance was caused by quantities of waste material, slurry, etc., being deposited on the highway by Agricultural and Building Contractors. Where this Nuisance has been of long duration the contractor's attention has been drawn to the offence. However it appears that many employers are not willing to exercise the necessary degree of control over their employees to ensure that the highways are not rendered dangerous and unsightly by reason of such deposits.

### 3. (v) CAMPING SITES.

Caravans stationed in the district again increased in numbers throughout the year; each of these holds a licence under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. All caravans are inspected at least once a year and where there is any question of the standard of camping being below that which is required these are subject to more frequent inspections.

There are now several caravan sites within the district. Frequent inspections are carried out and conditions generally are maintained at a satisfactory level. There is no doubt that this form of habitation will be with us for some time to come and nothing for the maintenance of satisfactory conditions

can replace a regular inspection. Only one site is licenced under the Public Health Act 1936. In all other instances the Moveable Dwellings are licenced and not the land on which they are stationed.

During the year overcrowding conditions and cases of improper water supply have arisen and these are dealt with immediately and the outcome although not arrived at quickly does eventually prove to be satisfactory.

### 3. (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year very little difficulty was experienced except on occasion at a building, formerly known as The Government Training Centre, and now owned by the National Hostels Corporation at Sundon Park. When this Nuisance has arisen it has been found to be almost entirely due to low grade fuel. The utmost co-operation has at all times been afforded by the management, but due to the location of these buildings, which are surrounded by private houses, any smoke emission is a very definite Nuisance to residents in the locality.

#### Dust Emission.

Close liaison has been maintained with the Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works and generally speaking the managements of the various cement factories have been most co-operative. Unfortunately due to the exceptional delay in the delivery of a suitable type of dust gauge, no reasonably reliable estimate of the degree of aerial pollution by dust was possible during the year.

### 3. (vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths in the district.

### 3. (viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS.

No. of Council houses found to be infested	...	1
" " disinfectd	...	1
No. of " other houses found to be infested	...	3
" " disinfectd	...	3

Disinfestation was carried out by one of the following methods: (a) D.D.T. fumites, (b) Blowlamp followed by spraying with an insecticide containing D.D.T. The spraying is repeated ten days after first treatment.

### 3. (ix) ERADICATION OF FURNITURE BEETLE.

Infestations of *Anobium Punctatum* still occurred in various parts of the District. In 15 of the Authority's houses treatment was carried out, where infestation occurred in privately owned property advice was given and where necessary equipment was loaned for short periods to enable efficient treatment to be given by the owners or occupiers concerned. A common seat of infestation was found to be the plywood electricity meter boards supplied by the Electricity Undertakers, where such infestations occurred in Council owned property the boards were replaced by composition boards supplied by the Undertaker.



**SECTION D—HOUSING.**

**1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	103
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	142
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	53
(5) Number of dwelling-houses found to be satisfactory ... ..	45
(6) Number of houses placed in Category 5 (Rural Housing Survey) which were rendered fit for habitation ... ..	20

**2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	20
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**3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.**

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	53
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	Nil
(a) By Owners ... ..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(1a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	168
(2a) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices ... ..	102
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil
(3) Number of unfit dwelling-houses demolished	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

#### 4. HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

During the year the Council re-housed 116 families some of whom had previously lived under overcrowded conditions. Twenty-six families were visited where it was alleged that overcrowding existed but only six of these were found to be legally overcrowded. A proportion of these enquiries were carried out at the request of other Local Authorities to whom the persons concerned had applied for re-housing. With the commencement of a housing scheme in the parish of Sundon Park it is reasonable to anticipate that what remains of the problem will be solved.

Continual difficulty is however, being experienced in explaining to applicants, especially where a small house is shared by two families, that bedroom overcrowding does not of necessity amount to overcrowding as defined under the Act.

#### SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Food Bye-laws in 1950, follow-up visits were made to all retail food premises, factory and school canteens and catering establishments in the District. 242 visits being made during the year. It is my opinion that frequent advisory visits produce far better results than isolated inspections made with a view to instituting legal proceedings for contravention of the Food and Drugs Acts or the Bye-laws.

The majority of managements and staffs were co-operative and it is envisaged that any difficulties which arise will be concerned with persons who sell food from vehicles which operate in several parishes in the District. With this type of trading the protection of food from dirt, dust, flies, etc., is more difficult than in a shop.

Although the shortage of suitable wrapping material was less obvious during the year, the increased cost continued to limit the quantity of wrapping provided by most traders.

### Food Poisoning.

During the year no outbreak occurred in the district, the few isolated cases which occurred involved only individual families.

### Damage to Food Supplies.

The quantity of tinned foods rendered unfit for human consumption due to damage in transit did not decrease during the year and in view of the current necessity to restrict imports of food it is even more important that all persons engaged in transport and handling of these articles should exercise due care. During the past year many tins have been examined, which although the contents were sound, were rendered unsaleable due to damage and soiling during transit thus entailing loss to the retailer and consumer alike.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following quantities of foods were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption.

Processed Peas (1lb. tins)	...	...	...	15	tins.
Garden Peas (10½oz. tins)	...	...	...	2	tins.
Beans in Tomato Sauce (1lb. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Beans and Pork (1lb. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Butter Beans (15oz. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Tomatoes (8oz. tins)	...	...	...	6	tins.
Beetroot (2½ oz. tins)	...	...	...	5	tins.
Oranges (1lb. tins)	...	...	...	2	tins.
Red Plums (2's)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Golden Plums (15½oz. tins)	...	...	...	8	tins.
Cherry Plums (15½oz. tins)	...	...	...	14	tins.
Crushed Pineapple (18½oz. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Grapes (2½'s)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Gouvas (1lb. 14oz. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Currants	...	...	...	11	lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	...	34½	lbs.
Breakfast Oats	...	...	...	3	packets.
Cornflakes	...	...	...	1	packet.
Semolina	...	...	...	1	packet.
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	283	packets.
Conserve (25oz. tins)	...	...	...	104	tins.
Apple Jelly (24oz. tins)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Grapefruit Marmalade (2's)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce (1lb. tins)	...	...	...	12	tins.
Vegetable Soup (1lb. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Chocolate Biscuits (7lb. tin)	...	...	...	1	tin.
Stewed Steak (1lb. tins)	...	...	...	2	tins.
Pork Luncheon Meat (4lb. tins)	...	...	...	5	tins.
Luncheon Meat (7oz. tins)	...	...	...	9	tins.
Cooked Ham (16lb. tins)	...	...	...	6	tins.
Bacon	...	...	...	5⅓	lbs.
Coffee Essence (5½oz. bottles)	...	...	...	3	bottles.
Sweetened Condensed Milk	...	...	...	1	tin.
Unsweetened Condensed Milk	...	...	...	1	tin.

Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	42	tins.
Crab Paste	...	...	...	...	18	tins.
Smoked Fillet	...	...	...	...	22	lbs.
Bloater Paste (2½ oz. Jars)	...	...	...	...	14	jars.
Pilchards (1 lb. tin)	...	...	...	...	1	tin.

### Milk—Report on Milk Sampling.

Ungraded.	Satisfactory	...	29
	Unsatisfactory	...	3
Accredited.	Satisfactory	...	3
	Unsatisfactory	...	1
Pasteurised.	Satisfactory	...	36
	Unsatisfactory	...	4
Tuberculin Tested.	Satisfactory	...	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).	Satisfactory	...	2

Where the result has been below the required standard further inspections have been made and samples have been taken until satisfactory results are forthcoming.

### The Milk (Special Designations) Act 1949. Licences.

Accredited Milk Dealers	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Milk Dealers	...	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers	.....	...	...	4
Pasteurised Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers Supplementary	...	...	...	1
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	20
Producer-Retailers	...	...	...	51

30 inspections, visits, etc., have been made in connection with retailers premises, vehicles, etc., and on the whole conditions have been satisfactory.

### Churn and Bottle Rinsings.

During the latter part of the year the Director of the local Public Health Laboratory agreed to carry out the bacteriological examination of churn and bottle rinsings. Subsequently nine samples of churn rinsings were obtained from retailers premises and submitted for examination, of these three proved to be unsatisfactory. In these three instances advice was given to the retailer and subsequent samples indicated a definite improvement in the standard of the cleansing of churns.

### Factories Act 1937.

During the year 74 inspections were carried out in factories, including bakehouses in the District. Special attention being paid to conditions existing in the bakehouses which were generally maintained at a high standard of hygiene. In a few bakehouses extensive structural alterations were made to enable more modern equipment to be installed. Two bakehouses went out of use during the year.



## Ice Cream.

31 samples were taken during the year and the results obtained were as follows:—

Provisional	Grade	I	(Good)	...	...	12
"	"	II	(Fairly Good)	...	...	15
"	"	III	(Fair)	...	...	2
"	"	IV	(Poor)	...	...	2

These results indicate a further decline in the percentage of poor quality ice cream on sale in the District, due to a very great extent to the fact that most retailers sell only pre-packed ice cream thus greatly reducing the chance of contamination in transit and during storage.

A further 8 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream during the year. At each of these the proprietor was requested to sell only pre-packed ice cream, especially where the trade was of a general nature.

## Poliomyelitis Research—Virological Survey.

The Medical Research Council established that Salm. Typhi and Salm. Paratyphi B. could be isolated more readily from sewer swabs than from samples of sewage and also that the poliomyelitis virus could also be isolated from swabs although samples of the sewage were negative. As a result of this information it was decided to carry out a survey of sewage, by the use of swabs, from 50 towns and 50 villages in England and Wales. The towns and villages selected were paired so that in each County two similar types of town and two similar villages were used. In each selected town or village at least one confirmed case of poliomyelitis must have been diagnosed during 1950. The villages of Barton and the combined villages of Stanbridge and Tilsforth in this District were selected as representative of the County of Bedfordshire. The investigation necessitated a complete survey of the sewage disposal systems of each village and the selection of approximately 30 points, none of which received the drainage of more than 10 properties. The selected points were recorded on a map with the address of properties which drained to each point. The first batch of swabs were laid during the week ending 14th April and were picked up after 72 hours immersion in the sewage. The second batch was laid during the first week in June. All swabs and maps were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale where the investigation was completed. At none of the points selected were positive results obtained.

## Rodent Control.

During the year 272 properties were inspected for the purpose of confirming whether or not an infestation existed, involving 609 visits for the purpose of carrying out treatment at private dwellings. 68 treatments were carried out at premises where negligence was confirmed or at business premises. No legal proceedings under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 were instituted but warning letters were sent to several agricultural contractors reminding them of their responsibility to erect a wire barrier whilst threshing out ricks. The Rodent Officer had cause to visit two farms where inadequate

steps were being taken to deal with an infestation, subsequently these infestations were eliminated by the Pest Control Service of the County Agricultural Executive Committee. Close liaison with the County Pest Control Service continued throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.